

Re: A few questions about the log

Robert Smith <rsmith@navymemorial.org>

Fri 08/03/2024 15:29

Thank you for your letter seeking more information about the Navy Log. This system is meant to be a registry to honor all those who have served in the sea services of the United States to include the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine, This registry is open to all. The United States Navy Memorial is a non-profit non-governmental organization an as such we have no direct access to private personnel records.

As for your specific questions, individuals, friends, family and volunteers can submit Navy Log entries, either in hard copy or online with their own user ID. All of the information, whether entered online or via mail, is self-certified. Here is the relevant section for creating a Navy Log entry online:

Disclaimer *

I certify that the information provided is truthful, complete, and accurate, and understand that all Navy Log entries are self-reported and not verified by the U.S. Navy Memorial.

Release Agreement *

I agree to the terms in the U.S. Navy Memorial Release Agreement ([Read here](#)) and authorize the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation and its licensees, to manage the information I submitted to the Navy Log for study, broadcast, non-profit, educational, and museum purposes only.

I do not agree to the terms.

I am not registering on the Navy Log for myself or as the legal representative of the service member registered.

Revision information New revision	Revision log message
URL path settings Automatic alias	
Printer, email and PDF versions	Provide an explanation of the changes you are making. This will help other authors understand your motivations.
Authoring information By rconwell	Revision creation and moderation options <input checked="" type="radio"/> Create new revision, no moderation
Publishing options Published	<input type="radio"/> Create new revision and moderate
	Moderation means that the new revision is not publicly visible until approved by someone with the appropriate permissions.

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As to your question about whether an entry is accurate or true, service members are generally very careful about being accurate in all matters concerning their service. There have been essentially no challenges to the information in the Navy Log. However, such information is subject to the vagaries of individuals' memories.

The characterization "deep sea diver" is appropriately applied to all navy divers. Most of their salvage and repair work is done in cumbersome suits and in difficult conditions. It is not often done at great depth but the equipment they use supports such work.

Finally, the term "decorated" applies to a very wide range of medals and other awards. However, it certainly can include the citations you mention. A Navy "E" ribbon recognizes the contribution of all the members of a ship's crew. Similarly, the Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon represents personal service far from home.

People are free to characterize how they feel about such awards - many prefer not to mention even more significant awards. But it is largely a matter of personal choice.

I hope that this has answered your questions.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Smith

Archivist

United States Navy Memorial

Phone: 202-380-0734

Email: rsmith@navymemorial.org

From:

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:32 AM

To: Robert Smith <rsmith@navymemorial.org>

Subject: A few questions about the log

Hello,

I have a few questions about the log, partly because I'm not certain if someone is misleading the public about his service (and perhaps a case of "Stolen Valor"). Please excuse some of my naivety as I am Canadian and unfamiliar with the US military.

When viewing an individual's entry, I see there's a button to "EDIT THIS LOG".

A) Can you help me understand if this means an individual can sign up and create/modify their own log entry?

B) If that is the case, can you help me understand how can we be certain what is in their entry (or any entry for that matter) is accurate and true?

With respect to the individual in question, in other forums, but not on NavyMemorial.Org, he claims to be "a decorated US Navy Deep Sea Diver". I see on his entry his rank is HT3(DV), and his Speciality is "Hull Maintenance Technician, Diver Second Class".

C) Can you help me understand if the rank/speciality equates to "Deep Sea Diver"?

He states his Significant Awards to be "Navy E Ribbon(2)" and "Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon". When I look up these awards they are not decorations for exemplary or outstanding personal performance but rather seem to be in recognition of participation for a period of time or an exercise.

D) Can you help me understand someone can legitimately claim to be "decorated" if they have received the above mentioned "awards"?

Thank you very much for taking the time to reply to my inquiry.

Best regards,